



The City of **Columbus**

FINANCE DEPARTMENT Office (402) 562-4231 ? Fax (402) 563-1380

December 11, 2006

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street
Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Commission Members:

We appreciate the Nebraska Public Service Commission studying whether it should establish a limited cost recovery mechanism for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) for general costs associated with providing enhanced wireless 911. One of the considerations mentioned was if a designated PSAP has their own surcharge, fee or tax on wireless service than the PSAP would be ineligible to receive any cost recovery for wireless services. The City of Columbus is the PSAP for Platte County and has enacted a 3% occupation tax that covers both wired and wireless telephone service within the City limits. The Columbus Council has chosen to have this occupation tax because it is fair to tax all telephone services the same and this was seen as a way to hold the line on property tax increases. Would the existence of the occupation tax, which is only in effect within the Columbus city limits, preclude the Columbus/Platte County PSAP from receiving a partial reimbursement for providing enhanced wireless 911 services? It does not seem fair that the Commission should penalize the Columbus/Platte County PSAP cost recovery allocation because one or more of the local governments have enacted a legal tax on wireless phone services.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,

Anne Kinnison
Finance Director

C: William Gumm, Police Chief
Dean Hefti, Fire Chief
Joe Mangiamelli, City Administrator
Sandra Hladky, Communications Supervisor
Stacen Gross, Geo-Comm, Inc.
Gary Krumland, League of Nebraska Municipalities